



# *The Timberwolf Times*

November 2025

## *A Message from the Principal*

October was a busy month full of learning and fun activities!!

We noticed an uptick in behaviors, so Mr. Guerrero led community meetings and kicked off new Den Dollar prizes, which students have really enjoyed! Students are able to earn small prizes, eat popcorn with the principal, earn extra recess, be a guest announcer, and much more! THANK YOU all for your partnership in ensuring students are following our IK Core Values making school a safe place for everyone to learn and grow.



November is a relatively short month in terms of actual school days. It is imperative that students attend every single day, on time. Thank you for working hard to ensure students are regularly attending school. This is the simplest way to ensure students learn and grow throughout the year. Please sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher during Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 20th or 21st. This home-to-school connection is an important piece of your child's success. The conference is the time to discuss your child's academic and behavioral growth and learn how to best support them at home.

This is the time of year to reflect and give thanks. I personally want to give thanks to each of you! Thank you for trusting me with your most prized possession, your children! I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you and with your children. Watching them grow, mature, and learn is one of my greatest blessings and one that I do not take for granted.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving season!!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Del Toro

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## Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten families,

During the month of October we have been assessing our students using KIDS. This assessment uses 14 measures that kindergarten teachers evaluate to assess a child's readiness for school, it is a State requirement.

In the classroom students are working on the following units.

Amplify Knowledge:

Students are working on Unit #2 The Five Senses. Students will learn all about the Five Senses and they will also hear the biography story of Ray Charles, and Helen Keller.

UFLI:

Students are working on Phonemic Awareness, blending, letter formation, letter sounds, letter names, CVC words, VC words, vowels, short vowels and long vowels.

Eureka Math:

Students are working on Module #2. In this module students will learn about Two- Dimensional and Three- Dimensional Shapes.

Lectoescritura:

Students are working on Unit #2. In Unit 2, students will begin to make connections between sounds and letters. They will practice blending sounds to form words and will be taught several of the letters used in reading and writing. (Vowels and syllables with M, P, and S) all in spanish.

BUF: The start of October was filled with lessons on Indigenous people. We learned about some tribes, housing and way of life for Indigenous people. Beginning October 24th, we will transition into learning the needs of humans and what they need to survive.



## 1st Grade

Hello 1st grade families,

We have been working diligently in our classrooms.

During UFLI we are working on short vowel reviews/longer words and incorporating the FLSZ Spelling Rule. We write daily and work on complete sentences.

In Math we are getting started on Module 2-Introduction to Place Value through addition and subtraction within 20.

We are currently working on Domain 3- Different Lands, Similar Stories. Students have enjoyed learning about similarities and differences between fairy tales and folktales around the world.

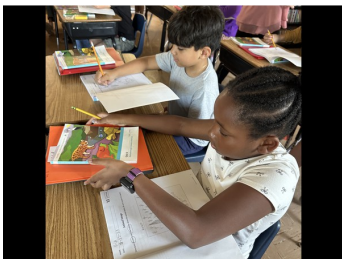
In Lectoescritura we are on Unit 2. We are working on nouns, spelling and syllables.

Thank you for all of your support at home!



## 2nd Grade

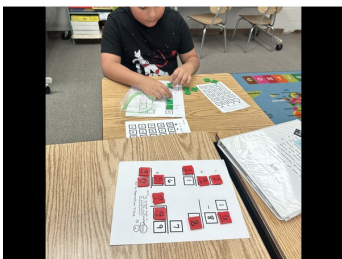
We finished up our literacy unit on Ancient Greece and the students are looking forward to studying Greek Mythology. We will be looking at identifying the elements of character, setting, plot, and supernatural beings and events in particular Greek myths. In math we continue with place value in Module 4. It is really important for students to practice 1s, 10s and 100s. This will help the students when we add and subtract 3-digit numbers.



## 3rd Grade

We wrapped up our literacy unit on Animal Classification. We went to the zoo to celebrate all our hard work! We will be starting our nonfiction unit on the human body. Students continue working on their writing. It is very important that they always start with a topic sentence, have at least 3 details, and a conclusion. Please encourage this practice at home.

In math we continue with Module 2 which is measurement and rounding. It is really important for students to practice how to round numbers to the nearest 10 and 100. Continue practicing those math facts as all of our math topics involve multiplication and division. Cognitive engagement is something we are working on at IK. Students should be sitting up, tracking the speaker, appreciating the topic and rephrasing what the speaker said. It is very important that students continue to pay attention in this manner to be able to make the most progress.



## 4th Grade

Math module three consists of applying multiplication and division to contexts such as area and perimeter to set the stage for the standard algorithm strategies. We will practice various ways to model these problems, moving from concrete to abstract.

We began our journey through the Medieval Ages during literacy. We're applying reading strategies to improve comprehension through text evidence, specific content vocabulary, repeated readings, grammar, and morphology instruction. In addition, students continue to fine-tune their writing skills using rubrics for informational and persuasive paragraphs.

In Social Studies, we are finishing up our Native American dioramas where students have worked hard to utilize research in order to effectively represent their regions of study! They will begin recording

this week and next week with Mrs. Silva in order to bring these regions to life!

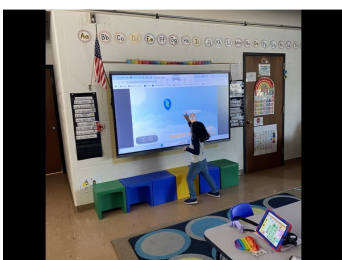


## 5th Grade

**Math:** Grade 5 Eureka Module 2, titled "Multi-Digit Whole Number and Decimal Fraction Operations," focuses on extending place value concepts to the multiplication and division of larger numbers. It covers multiplication algorithms, using area models and the distributive property, as well as estimation through rounding. The module also includes division strategies, starting with place value disks, and moving to the standard vertical division method with two-digit divisors.

**Science:** Students will understand that plants use energy from the sun, air, and water to manufacture food for themselves. Minerals from the soil are incorporated into this food. Food chains and food webs are models that show food relationships in an ecosystem. Material that is in plant material, such as grass, moves through a food web as animals eat the plants. Some animals eat other animals for their food. The sun is the original source of energy for ecosystems. Energy from the sun enables plants to make food for themselves. In turn, animals eat plants, and the energy and matter from plants is passed on to animals.

**Reading:** This unit orients students to the geography, climate, flora, and fauna of the Americas while presenting an overall history and timeline highlighting the rise and fall of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations. In addition, the unit describes innovations and discoveries of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca and features myths from these ancient civilizations. Students review the stages of the writing process and use information from the text to compare and contrast the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations and create an informative or explanatory project, the Codex Project, that encompasses all three civilizations. Students plan and draft a paragraph about the Maya and practice paraphrasing and note-taking, plan and draft a paragraph about the Aztec and incorporate images into their work, practice using linking words and phrases to compare the Maya and the Aztec, and plan and draft a paragraph about the Inca. Students edit their writing, then integrate their writing and images to complete their Codex Project.



## Primary Self-Contained

In November, our Unique Curriculum unit will focus on observing and naming objects we see in the sky, including the Sun and the Moon. We will also continue to develop our foundational literacy skills through letter recognition, letter formation, and reading comprehension. In math, we are continuing our lessons on comparing numbers, number formation, and will soon transition to learning about operations as students progress.



## Intermediate Self-Contained

In November, our unit will focus on observing and naming objects we see in the sky, including the Sun and the Moon. We will also continue to develop our foundational literacy skills through reading comprehension and writing activities. In math, we are finishing our lessons on comparing numbers and will soon transition to learning about operations.



## Art

In October, kindergarten will be opening their drawing and painting center to use as a choice. They will complete an Autumn tree drawing and a pumpkin watercolor painting.

First grade will be starting their observational drawing unit! Students will complete a sketch activity every week to develop their drawing skills. After they complete their activity for their week, they may transition to centers.

Second grade will be starting their clay unit! We will be practicing clay slab techniques and creating a clay slab project.

Third grade just opened their hot glue station! We went over hot glue expectations and safety. Third grade will be continuing to practice using hot glue and focus on craftsmanship.

Fourth grade is currently learning about using innovative techniques to create art. We will be creating pixel animations using LittleBits with our technology teacher, Ms. Silva. This is an innovative technique by using technology.

Fifth grade will be learning skills to draw a self-portrait. Each week, students will complete a 5-minute sketch to add different facial features to their self-portrait using skills they learned.



## Music

3rd-5th graders had a fabulous musical experience on Oct. 7 at Wheaton College listening to the live symphony orchestra performance! Students wrote thank-you notes to the conductor and the performers and I delivered them to Wheaton College for them to enjoy. Students are playing xylophones, glockenspiels, triangles, guiro and other percussion instruments during music class. We continue to work on rhythm reading, playing, writing and composing during class.

KG students are continuing to differentiate among 4 voices: sing, speak, whisper, shout. We also use thinking voice and humming voice. We are also moving to steady beat. Students played step

bells which are a visual representation of “going up” and “going down” in melody.

1st graders are singing and playing classroom instruments including hand drums, maracas, triangles, rhythm sticks, guiro, tambourine. We added accompaniment to a book and we are working on playing steady beat and rhythms. Students continue to play, read, write and compose rhythms using quarter notes and rests and will be adding paired eighth notes to our repertoire.

2nd graders are also playing classroom instruments, moving to music, singing and writing, reading, composing and playing rhythms.



## **P.E.**

All grades will be working on soccer skills and soccer games.

3rd-5th grade will discuss strategy within the soccer games.

At the end of the month all grades will start the throwing and catching unit.



## **SEL/Health**

In S.E.L./Health Class students are learning about Mental Health and Wellness.

Kindergarten: In kindergarten, students are learning to identify emotions.

First: In first grade, students are learning about how to manage their big emotions.

Second: In second grade, students are learning to recognize and regulate their emotions.

Third: In third grade, students are learning to express their emotions in an acceptable manner.

Fourth: In fourth grade, students are learning to express their emotions in an acceptable manner across many different settings.

Fifth: In fifth grade, students are learning to use effective communication strategies to convey emotions respectfully.

## **Library**

In the library, in October, we continued our exploration of the different genres of literature. We had the excitement of the book fair arriving. Students previewed and shopped during their library periods.

The last week of October is Halloween Week. We will enjoy Halloween themed stories and activities.



## Coaches Corner



Each month, our D33 instructional and Multilingual Learner coaches are creating informational guides to support our families with ways they can help their children at home or with ways to partner with their child's teacher.

This month, the topic is "Preparing for Parent/Teacher Conferences." Please [check this out](#) for more information on how to come in prepared to have a two-way dialogue with your child's teacher regarding the success of your student.

## Upcoming Events

- **November 13th**- PTO Meeting (Virtual 5:30-6:00)
- **November 20th** - P/T Conferences 4:30-8:00pm
- **November 21st**- P/T Conferences 8:30-8:00pm
- **November 24th-28th- NO SCHOOL**- Thanksgiving Break!!
- **December 4th**- Fall Picture Retakes
- **December 8th-12th**- Santa's Workshop
- **December 12th**- Cookies with Santa (5:30-6:30)
- **December 22nd-January 1st- NO SCHOOL**- Winter Break



**Whitnie Del Toro**

Principal, Indian Knoll Elementary School

deltorow@wego33.org